

variety of *E. mollis*, but Mr. Curtiss said there was a great dissimilarity of appearance, and I, hesitatingly, and improperly referred it to *E. annulata*, specimens of which we have from the W. Indies. The spikelets of our plant are nearly twice as large as those of the W. Indian plant, and have two flowers, while that has one. The general appearance of *E. mollis* and *E. annulata*? of Curtiss's distribution is quite dissimilar, but the flowers can hardly be distinguished, and a specimen from Florida collected by Dr. Garber seems almost to connect the two.

In my published list of grasses I made *E. mollis* a variety of *E. punctata*. This, I suppose, must be changed, for our Texas specimens of *E. punctata* have smaller, one-flowered spikelets, with much more pointed glumes. Therefore *E. mollis* must be restored as a species. As to our *E. annulata*? it must either become a species, or be considered a variety of *E. mollis*. They need to be further observed, perhaps, before this point can be clearly determined. Our species of *Eriochloa* then will need to be divided into two sections, one with one flower, the other with two flowers, and will stand as follows:

§ 1. Spikelets one-flowered.

1. *E. sericea*, Munro; 2. *E. punctata*, Hamilton; 3. *E. grandiflora* (*Helopus grandiflorus*, Trin.)

§ 2. Spikelets two-flowered.

4. *E. mollis*, Kunth; and var. *longifolia* or a new species.

## GENERAL NOTES.

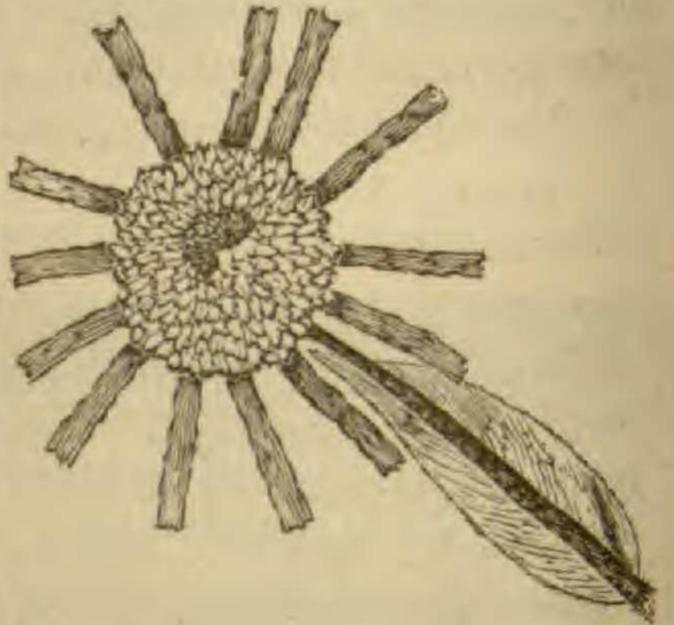
**Erythræa.**—Professor Wittrock, of Stockholm, is publishing *Exsiccatae* of the genus *Erythræa*. He wishes to include the North American species and forms, and no less the European species as naturalized in the United States. I am to ask American botanists, who can do so, to prepare for this work a set of a hundred or two hundred specimens (enough for thirty-five copious sets), of any species within their reach. For compensation, by exchange or otherwise, they should correspond with Dr. N. Wittrock, Royal Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.—A. GRAY.

**Notes on Economic Botany.**—*Ascyrum Cruz-Andree*, L.—The crushed leaves, and especially the half ripe pods of "St. Andrew's Cross," are used quite extensively by the country people for checking bleeding at the nostrils. The parts used are crushed in the hand and the aromatic emanations inhaled, which seem sufficiently astringent to contract the capillaries and check the flow of blood.

**Cotton Seed.**—Before the manufacture of cotton-seed oil became so great an industry in the Southern States, the seeds of the cotton plant were largely a waste product. Cattle were fed on the fresh seeds, to some extent, and sus-

tained no injury, but swine were killed by them. It was the custom among some planters to throw the seed into the water during the rainy season, in such situations as became dry during the summer. Maceration for several months placed the seed in a condition to be used by swine as food, and during the dry season the seeds were eaten by them greedily without injury.—F. L. HARVEY, Fayetteville, Ark.

**Rudbeckia hirta, L.**—I collected July 28, 1882, in Shelburne, N. H., a specimen of *Rudbeckia hirta*, in which the tubular disk flowers were all changed to ligulate flowers, nearly twice their ordinary length. The ray flowers were as usual. The accompanying sketch illustrates the flower.—WALTER DEANE, Cambridge, Mass.



**Variation and Human Interference.**—DEAR EDITOR—I have this spring received from one source wild specimens of *Thalictrum anemonoides*, with full double flowers; from another, *Epigaea*, in the same condition. As these variations can not well be regarded as advantageous to the plants themselves, will you report the case to Dr. Sturtevant, who has made an acute suggestion about such things, and ask him if we are to infer that the aborigines of Maryland and New Hampshire were in former times floriculturists?—A. G.

**What a Lilac Bush did.**—Two cut stones forming a part of a corner foundation of Dr. Gray's residence at Cambridge have been misplaced by a lilac bush which some years since insinuated itself into a very close joint in the stone-work. The lower stone which has been misplaced is three feet long, about a foot high, and eight inches deep. Upon this rests a stone of similar shape, two feet long. These stones form one end of the wall. In the joint between the lower stone and the main body of the wall the lilac sprout established itself. The bush, now scarcely more than an inch in diameter, has forced the lower stone an inch away from the remaining wall in a horizontal direction. Moreover, the upper stone, being attached to the lower by mortar and being held down by the weight of the building, has shared equally in the displacement.—L. H. BAILEY, JR.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

POLYEMBRYONY, arising probably from the formation of more than one germ cell in the embryo sac, has been noticed in *Trifolium pratense*.

MAXIME CORNU, the distinguished botanist, has recently been appointed *Professeur de culture* to the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, as successor to the late M. Decaisne.